

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0809

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Secretary Austin:

We write to follow up on requests for information regarding the origins of COVID-19 that remain outstanding. The Department of Defense (DOD) has an obligation to be responsive to congressional requests for information.

On August 3, 2022, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight held a hearing titled, "Revisiting Gain of Function Research: What the Pandemic Taught Us and Where Do We Go from Here."¹

Members of the U.S. Senate have sent letters to DOD, specifically to DARPA and to DTRA, requesting documents and information related to agency's activities and operations. To date, DOD has failed to provide the requested information

For this reason, we reaffirm the following requests for information:

1. Unredacted copies of all records² referring or relating to EcoHealth Alliance, including but not limited to grant proposals, contracts, subcontracts, agreements, and data.
2. Unredacted copies of all records referring or relating to Wuhan Institute of Virology, Shi Zhengli, Zhou Yusen, or Academy for Military Medical Sciences, including but not limited to grant proposals, contracts, subcontracts, agreements, and data.

¹ Revisiting Gain of Function Research: What the Pandemic Taught Us and Where Do We Go From Here: Hearing Before the S. Subcomm. on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Affairs, 117th Cong. (2022), available at <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etsa/hearings/revisiting-gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here>.

²"Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

3. **Unredacted copies of all records referring or relating to Ralph Baric, including but not limited to grant proposals, contracts, subcontracts, agreements, and data.**
4. **Unredacted copies of any application or submission since 2014 relating to coronavirus research, including but not limited to accepted proposals, rejected proposals, and proposals to add a furin cleavage site to coronaviruses.**

We respectfully request you provide our offices with the status of each request no later than 5:00 PM on April 10, 2023.

Sincerely,

Rand Paul

Ed Kennedy

Johnny Boy

Luis Hernandez

Eric J. Lee

Rick

Joseph P. Summers
MA

Ryan

Rosemary

Ad Long

Isiah

Christy

Susan M. Collins

Jim E

Thomas

Marysville

Mike Cross

W. J. E.

Paul Chisholm

Mike Brown

Ken Casey

[Signature]

Ray T. Wicker

Kathy B. Burt